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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/690,350

10/17/2000

Allan Anthony Hren

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08/13/2004

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EXAMINER

WALLERSON, MARK E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 08/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/690,350

Applicant(s)

HREN, ALLAN ANTHONY

Examiner

Mark E. Wallerson

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-9, 17, 18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 6, 9, 16 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 10-15, 17-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perry (US Patent Publication No. 2002/0012445) in view of Christopher et al. (US Patent No. 5,594,838).

Regarding claims 1 and 11, Perry discloses a method remotely generating a unique printer pass code recognizable by a printer, the method comprising: providing (requested) a unique character string (ID reads on unique character string) for a printer (printer; paragraphs 84-85); and recognizing (verify) the mathematically manipulated (the authenticity) character string (ID) as a pass code (password reads on pass code; paragraph 85).

Although Perry does not disclose mathematically manipulating, Christopher discloses mathematically manipulating (some manipulation command...perform mathematical operations) the unique character string (command and command routines reads on unique character string; col. 14, lines 25-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Perry and Christopher due to both references disclosing printer validation system to request information from the

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remote location as needed by an application program without interrupting a printer or data collection operation.

Regarding claims 2 and 12, Perry discloses the method wherein providing a unique character string for a printer comprises locating a printer serial number resident within the printer (paragraph 84).

Regarding claims 3 and 13, Perry discloses the method wherein locating a printer serial number resident with in the printer comprises locating a printer serial number programmed into a digital controller during manufacturing of the printer (paragraphs 84-86).

Regarding claims 4 and 14, Perry discloses the method wherein providing a unique character string for a printer is conducted by a user of the printer (paragraphs 84-85) and comprises entering the character string into a computer program which receives the character string as input (paragraph 84), and outputting the result as the pass code (paragraph 85).

Although Perry does not disclose the mathematically manipulating, Christopher discloses wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string (col. 14, lines 25-41) and conducting mathematical manipulations on the character string (col. 14, lines 25-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Perry and Christopher due to both references disclosing printer validation system to request information from the

remote location as needed by an application program without interrupting a printer or data collection operation.

Regarding claims 5 and 15, Perry discloses the method further comprising entering the pass code into the printer (paragraph 84).

Regarding claims 7 and 17, Perry discloses the method further comprising enabling a previously dormant feature of the printer in response to a favorable result of recognizing the mathematically manipulated character string as a correct pass code for the printer (paragraph 84).

Regarding claims 8 and 18, Perry does not disclose wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string comprises conducting a series of mathematical operations on the character string.

However, Christopher does not disclose the method wherein mathematically manipulating the unique character string comprises conducting a series of mathematical operations on the character string (col. 14, lines 25-41).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Perry and Christopher due to both references disclosing printer validation system to request information from the remote location as needed by an application program without interrupting a printer or data collection operation.

Regarding claims 10 and 20, Perry discloses the method further comprising providing the pass code to a customer in return for the customer performing a desired action (paragraphs 84-85).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 6, 9, 16, and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Goodman (US Patent Publication No. 2003/0009672) discloses a method and system for real-time control of document printing.

Pierce (US Patent No. 5,384,449) discloses an authorization matching system.

Gottfreid (US Patent No. 6,076,076) discloses a prepaid print card system and method.

Fry, Sr. et al. (US Patent No. 6,147,695) discloses a point-of-sale terminal adapter.

Silverbrook et al. (US Patent Publication No. 2004/0046995) discloses an interactive publication printer and binder.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashanti Ghee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and alt. Fri. (7-4PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MARK WALLERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

